

## Huntington Postulates

A Boolean Algebra is a set  $B$  with two binary operators  $+$  and  $\cdot$ .  
And the equivalence relation  $=$   
that satisfies the following properties:

- Closure
  - with respect to  $+$
  - with respect to  $\cdot$
- Identity elements
  - 0 with respect to  $+$
  - 1 with respect to  $\cdot$
- Commutative
  - $x \cdot y = y \cdot x$
  - $x + y = y + x$
- Distributive
  - $\cdot$  is distributive over  $+$
  - $+$  is distributive over  $\cdot$
- Complements:  $\forall x \in B, \exists x' \in B$  (called the complement of  $x$ ) such that
  - $x + x' = 1$  and
  - $x \cdot x' = 0$
- There are at least 2 distinct elements in  $B$

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3

## Formal Definition of Switching Algebra

- Base set:  $B_2 = \{0, 1\}$
- One **unary** operation: NOT or COMPLEMENT:  $(x', \bar{x}, \neg x)$
- Two **binary** operations: AND ( $\cdot, \wedge$ ), OR ( $+, \vee$ )
- Postulates (axioms):

Postulate	Defines	A	B
P1	Switching Variables	$x = 0$ iff $x \neq 1$	$x = 1$ iff $x \neq 0$
P2	NOT	$0' = 1$	$1' = 0$
P3		$0 \cdot 0 = 0$	$1 + 1 = 1$
P4	AND / OR	$1 \cdot 1 = 1$	$0 + 0 = 0$
P5		$0 \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot 0 = 0$	$0 + 1 = 1 + 0 = 1$

- Duality:  $0 \leftrightarrow 1, \cdot \leftrightarrow +$

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4

## Properties (Theorems) of Switching Algebra

- From postulates, we can derive many theorems which can be used to manipulate switching expressions
- Recursive definition of **switching expressions**:
  - Any switching constant or variable is a switching expression
  - If  $E$  and  $F$  are switching expressions, then so are  $E', F', E \cdot F$ , and  $E + F$
- A **literal** is a variable  $x$  or its complement  $x'$
- Theorems can be proved by:
  - Perfect induction (enumerating all possible combinations of variables)
  - Finite induction
  - Algebraic manipulation (using postulates and already proved theorems)
  - Use of duality

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5

$$x \cdot (x+y) = x \cdot x + x \cdot y = x + x \cdot y = x \cdot 1 + x \cdot y = x(1+y) = x$$
$$x + (xy) = x \cdot 1 + xy = x(1+y) = x$$

## (Some) Theorems

if you already prove Version A, then you don't need to repeat perfect induction in Version B.

	A	Name	B
T1	$x \cdot 1 = x$	Identities	$x + 0 = x$
T2	$x \cdot 0 = 0$	Null Elements	$x + 1 = 1$
T3	$x \cdot x = x$	Idempotency	$x + x = x$
T4		Involution	$(x')' = x$
T5	$x \cdot x' = 0$	Complements	$x + x' = 1$
T6	$x \cdot y = y \cdot x$	Commutativity	$x + y = y + x$
T7	$x \cdot (x + y) = x$	Absorption	$x + (x \cdot y) = x$
T8	$x \cdot (x' + y) = x \cdot y$	No Name	$x + (x' \cdot y) = x + y$
T9	$(x \cdot y) \cdot z = x \cdot (y \cdot z)$	Associativity	$(x + y) + z = x + (y + z)$
T10	$x \cdot (y + z) = x \cdot y + x \cdot z$	Distributivity	$x + (y \cdot z) = (x + y) \cdot (x + z)$
T11	$x \cdot y + x \cdot z + y \cdot z = x \cdot y + x' \cdot z$	Consensus	$(x + y) \cdot (x' + z) \cdot (y + z) = (x + y) \cdot (x' + z)$

$$= x \cdot x' + x \cdot y$$
$$= 0 + xy$$

only one of  $x, y, z$ .  
with / without complement

$x$  there called consensus variable

① dualizing the expression  $\leftarrow \begin{matrix} 0 \leftrightarrow 1 \\ + \leftrightarrow \cdot \end{matrix}$

② complementing the variables

absorption  $\begin{cases} x(x+y) = x \\ x+xy = x \end{cases}$

No name  $\begin{cases} x(x'+y) = xy \\ x+xy = x+y \end{cases}$

consensus  $\begin{cases} xy + xz + yz \\ (x+y)(x+z)(y+z) \end{cases}$  redundant

## Proof by Perfect Induction

Prove the truth of the distributive law (theorem T10)

$$x \cdot (y + z) = x \cdot y + x \cdot z$$

	A			B			
P3	0	0	0	0	0	0	
P4	1	1	1	0	0	0	
P5	0	1	1	0	0	0	

$x \ y \ z$	$x \cdot y$	$x \cdot z$	$y + z$	$x \cdot (y + z)$	$x \cdot y + x \cdot z$	Using
0 0 0	0	0	0	0	0	P3A, P4B
0 0 1	0	0	1	0	0	P3A, P5A, P5B, P4B
0 1 0	0	0	1	0	0	P5A, P3A, P5B, P4B
0 1 1	0	0	1	0	0	P5A, P3B, P4B
1 0 0	0	0	0	0	0	P5A, P4B
1 0 1	0	1	1	1	1	P5A, P4A, P5B
1 1 0	1	0	1	1	1	P4A, P5A, P5B
1 1 1	1	1	1	1	1	P4A, P3B

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7

## Proof by Finite Induction

Prove that  $(x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_n)' = x_1' \cdot x_2' \cdot \dots \cdot x_n'$

- Basis:** Establish truth for  $n = 2$  by perfect induction:

$$(x_1 + x_2)' = x_1' \cdot x_2'$$

- Induction:** Assume statement is true for  $n = k, k \geq 2$  and prove its truth for  $n = k + 1$

**Induction Hypothesis:**  $(x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_k)' = x_1' \cdot x_2' \cdot \dots \cdot x_k'$

$$(x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_k + x_{k+1})' = [(x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_k) + x_{k+1}]'$$
$$= (x_1 + x_2 + \dots + x_k)' \cdot x_{k+1}'$$
$$= x_1' \cdot x_2' \cdot \dots \cdot x_k' \cdot x_{k+1}'$$

## Proof by Algebraic Manipulation

Prove the consensus theorem (T11)

$$xy + x'z + yz = xy + x'z$$

$$xy + x'z + yz = xy + x'z + yz1 \quad (\text{Identity})$$
$$= xy + x'z + yz(x + x') \quad (\text{Complement})$$
$$= xy1 + x'z1 + xyz + x'yz \quad (\text{Id., Dist., Assoc.})$$
$$= xy(1 + z) + x'z(1 + y) \quad (\text{Assoc., Dist.})$$
$$= xy1 + x'z1 \quad (\text{Null Element})$$
$$= xy + x'z \quad (\text{Identity})$$

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9

## Additional Comments about Theorems

- The following properties are peculiar to switching algebra and are not true for the algebra of real numbers:
  - Idempotency  $f + f = f, f \cdot f = f$  (it's not  $f + f^2$ )
  - All properties involving complements
  - Distributivity of sum over product  $x + (y \cdot z) = (x + y) \cdot (x + z)$
- Associativity** allows the extension of the two binary operators AND and OR to three or more variables
- Simplification of switching expressions is facilitated by the **absorption** and **consensus** theorems
- The **involution property** and **De Morgan's laws** provide the rules for complementing switching expressions

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10